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Sustainable development

Prevention of armed conflict

Question of Palestine

Letter dated 17 May 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to address you in reference to the 18th Midterm Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), held from 3 to 6 April 2018 in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, on the theme "Promoting international peace and security for sustainable development".

In this regard, and in accordance with the mandate entrusted at that time by the Ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement, I am pleased to transmit herewith, for your information, a copy of the outcome documents adopted at the Ministerial Meeting in reference, while respectfully requesting their circulation as documents of the General Assembly, as follows:

- Baku Declaration (see annex I),* under agenda items 15, 19 and 34.
- Political Declaration of the Ministerial Committee of the Non-Aligned Movement on Palestine (see annex II),* under agenda item 38.
- Special Declaration on the Commemoration of the Centenary of the Birth of Nelson Mandela (see annex III),* under agenda item 15.

(*Signed*) Samuel **Moncada**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations
Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs
Special Presidential Commissioner for NAM Affairs

* The annexes are being circulated in the language of submission only.

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Annex I to the letter dated 17 May 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Baku Declaration of the 18th Midterm Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement

Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan
5–6 April 2018

We, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, gathered at the Mid-Term Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement, in Baku, the Republic of Azerbaijan, on 5–6 April 2018, under the theme "Promoting international peace and security for sustainable development", undertook a review of the progress achieved in the implementation of the outcomes of the XVII Conference of Heads of State held in Margarita, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on 17–18 September 2016, with a view to making an effective contribution to the solution of the major problems of concern to all NAM Member States and to entire Humankind, and

Inspired by the vision, principles and objectives of the Non-Aligned Movement, articulated in Bandung (1955) and Belgrade (1961), and guided by the Declaration of Purposes and Principles in our efforts to achieve a world of peace, equality, cooperation and well-being for all,

Reiterating our strong commitment to the purposes, principles and provisions of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming that every State has the duty to refrain in its international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations, and that such a threat or use of force constitutes a violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations and shall never be employed as a means of settling international issues,

Emphasizing the need for promoting unity, solidarity and cooperation among States and renewing our commitment to the NAM principles and objectives and our pledge to strive to make a constructive contribution towards building a new pattern of international relations based on the principles of peaceful co-existence, cooperation among nations and the right to equality of all States,

Recognizing that solidarity, the highest expression of respect, friendship and peace among States, is a broad concept encompassing the sustainability of international relations, the peaceful coexistence, and the transformative objectives of equity and empowerment of developing countries, whose ultimate goal is to achieve the full economic and social development of their peoples,

Looking forward to the XVIII Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement, aimed at addressing a wide range of issues from regional security to social and economic development and responding in a more coordinated and efficient manner to challenges standing in front of the Movement, to be held in Baku in 2019,

Expressing our appreciation to the Government and the people of the Republic of Azerbaijan for hosting the Mid-Term Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement,

1. We express our support for the consolidation, strengthening and revitalization of the NAM, which is key to preserving its legacy and historical validity and promoting its strength, cohesion and resilience on the basis of unity in diversity and solidarity of its Member States.

2. We commit to enhancing the status and role of the Movement as an anti-war peace-loving force and oppose any attempt to maintain aggressive military bloc and all forms of aggression, interference, subordination and inequality.

3. We call for further coordination of our positions in order to advance the interests of the developing world, build a fair, inclusive, transparent and effective system of joint global governance, based on justice and equitable participation of all countries, and address present challenges and risks stemming from global security threats, armed conflicts, environmental hazards, climate change, migration, contagious diseases, extreme poverty, among others.

4. We reconfirm our support to multilateralism with the United Nations at its core and express support to the central role of the United Nations in the institutional and legal framework of global governance. We reiterate our call for further strengthening and modernizing the United Nations, revitalizing the UN General Assembly and strengthening its authority as the most democratic, accountable, universal and representative body of the Organization, including in the area of international peace and security, and reforming the UN Security Council, in order to transform it into a more democratic, effective, efficient, transparent and representative body, and in line with contemporary geo-political realities.

5. We reaffirm that the faithful observance of the principles of international law concerning friendly relations and cooperation among States and the fulfillment in good faith of the obligations assumed by States, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, is of the greatest importance for the maintenance of international peace and security and for the implementation of the other purposes of the United Nations.

6. We reaffirm our determination to continue opposing any attempt aimed at partial or total disruption of the national unity or territorial integrity of a State as well as our commitment for the respect of the sovereignty, the sovereign equality of States, the non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, the peaceful settlement of disputes, and the abstention from the threat or use of force, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

7. We reaffirm and underscore the validity and relevance of the Movement's principled positions concerning the right to self-determination of peoples under foreign occupation and colonial or alien domination.

8. We reiterate our urgent calls for serious, collective efforts to bring a complete end to the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, in accordance with and in full respect of international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, and the relevant United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and its most recent resolution 2334 (2016).

9. We condemn the illegal policies and practices by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people, including, inter alia, the construction and expansion of illegal settlements, the demolition of Palestinian homes and properties, the acts of collective punishment against the civilian population, including the imprisonment and detention of thousands of civilians, disruptions of normal flow of people and traffic through various security checkpoints, closures, and barricades, as well as the illegal blockade of the Gaza Strip. We express our profound sadness and condemnation of the willful killing and injuring of hundreds of Palestinian civilians

participating in the commemoration of the Land Day, in Gaza on 30 March 2018, at the hands of Israeli occupation forces. We demand an immediate end to all such violations and grave breaches of the law and for full compliance by Israel with its legal obligations.

10. We urge the international community to act swiftly to avert the further dangerous deterioration and destabilization of the situation and to fulfill, without delay, the historical, political, legal and moral responsibilities towards the question of Palestine, including in support of the Palestinian people's realization of their inalienable rights, including to self-determination and freedom in their independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, on the basis of the pre-1967 borders. In this regard, we call for the intensification of international and regional efforts and support aimed at achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East, in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions, the Madrid terms of reference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet Roadmap, and a just solution for the Palestine refugees based on General Assembly resolution 194 (III). We reaffirm our support and unwavering solidarity to the Palestinian people and their leadership at this critical time in their long struggle to fulfill their legitimate national aspirations. We condemn and reject any notion and attempt to alter the status of East Jerusalem into the capital of Israel, and call for countries with diplomatic missions in Tel Aviv, to refrain from relocating their missions to Jerusalem.

11. We condemn all measures taken by Israel, the occupying Power, to alter the legal, physical and demographic status of the occupied Syrian Golan. In this regard, we demand once again that Israel should abide by resolution 497 (1981), and to withdraw fully from the occupied Syrian Golan to the borders of 4 June 1967, in implementation of resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973).

12. On the eve of the 70th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we reaffirm our commitment to the promotion and protection of all human rights, which are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, through a constructive and cooperative international dialogue, capacity building, technical assistance and the recognition of good practices, while ensuring the full enjoyment of all human rights, including the right to development as a an inalienable, fundamental and universal right, and as a comprehensive part of universally recognized human rights, in order to build collective and sustainable peace and prosperity across the world. We recognize the historical significance of the adoption of the Declaration of the Right to Development thirty years ago, which was promoted by the Non-Aligned Movement, and which requires a profound change in the international economic structure, including the creation of economic and social conditions that are favourable to developing countries. Likewise, we reiterate that human rights should be strengthened by adhering to the fundamental principles of universality, transparency, impartiality, non-selectivity, non-politicization and objectivity while seeking to realize the human rights for all, pursuant to the principles contained in the Vienna Declaration of 1993.

13. We underline the need for treating human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing, and with the same emphasis.

14. We recognize that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is one of the critical elements in the promotion and realization of the right to development and is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, which requires a multifaceted and integrated approach, and we reiterate the need for achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner.

15. We recognize that Member States have the primary responsibility to promote durable solutions for internally displaced persons in situations of armed conflict, including their voluntary return in safety and with dignity, as well as to ensure respect, protection and fulfillment of their human rights, in accordance with applicable obligations under international law. We stress the need for taking measures to addressing possible obstacles in this regard.

16. We emphasize that racism and racial discrimination are affronts to human dignity and equality, and the resurgence of contemporary and new forms of such abhorrent crimes in various parts of the world is a matter for grave concern. Thus, it is imperative to address with greater resolve and political will all forms and manifestation of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including new forms of slavery and trafficking in persons, wherever they occur.

17. We underline the need to promote tolerance and respect for diversity and the need to seek common ground among and within civilizations in order to address common challenges to humanity that threaten shared values, universal human rights and the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, through cooperation, partnership and inclusion.

18. We reiterate our commitment to coordinate the efforts and strategies at the national, regional and international levels against transnational crime and to develop the most effective methods in preventing and combating crime of this nature.

19. We renew our commitment to fight all forms of transnational organized crime by strengthening national legal frameworks, where applicable, and cooperation mechanisms, in particular through the exchange of information, mutual legal assistance and extradition in accordance with domestic law and international instruments as appropriate.

20. We reiterate our strong condemnation of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, which continues to pose a serious challenge to humanity, violates and impairs the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms and constitutes a crime and a serious threat to human dignity and physical integrity, and a challenge to sustainable development, and which requires the implementation of a comprehensive approach that includes partnerships and measures to prevent such trafficking, to prosecute and punish the traffickers and to identify and protect the victims, as well as a criminal justice response commensurate to the serious nature of the crime. In this regard, we encourage the development of policies, programmes and national strategies and combat trafficking in persons.

21. We reaffirm the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, particularly the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (Palermo Protocol).

22. We reaffirm that acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations are activities aimed at the destruction of human rights, fundamental freedoms and democracy, threatening territorial integrity, security of States and destabilizing legitimately constituted Governments, and that the international community should take the necessary steps to enhance cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism.

23. We emphasize the need to strengthen NAM solidarity in combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whosoever committed, in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the relevant international conventions. In this context, we stress that terrorism should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group.

24. We welcome the Fifth Review of the United Nations Global Counter Terrorism Strategy (UNGCTS) and the adoption of UN General Assembly resolution 70/291 of 1 July 2016. We further welcome the adoption by the UN General Assembly of resolution 71/291 of 19 June 2017, through which the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) was established, in accordance with the competencies and functions set out in the report of the Secretary General (A/71/858), with the purpose of, among others, supporting the implementation, in a balanced manner, of all four pillars of the UNGCTS and addressing upon request of Member States, capacity-building needs. We look forward to the contributions of the UNOCT in bringing more coherence and effectiveness to the activities carried by the United Nations on the counter-terrorism sphere, and pledge our support to contributing to its activities.

25. We express our condemnation at the promulgation and application of unilateral coercive measures against countries of the Movement, in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, particularly the principles of non-intervention, self-determination and independence of States subject of such practices. In this respect, we reiterate our determination to denounce and demand the repeal of such measures, which affect human rights and prevent the full economic and social development of the peoples who are subjected to them. Similarly, we reaffirm that each State has full sovereignty over the totality of its wealth, natural resources and economic activity, exercising it freely.

26. We reaffirm our intention to redouble efforts towards eliminating the threat posed to the human species by the existence of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons. In this regard, we resolve to work to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons. In this regard, we resolve to establish a nuclear weapon free zone in the Middle East, in accordance with the commitments reached during the Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), held in 1995, and its subsequent meetings. We also call for the urgent commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on further effective nuclear disarmament measures to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons, including in particular on a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons. We further reiterate the sovereign right of countries to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, keeping in view their independence and economic development.

27. We reaffirm that peacekeeping operations must be carried out with strict adherence to the principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, and emphasize that respect of the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of States, as well as non-intervention in internal affairs, are key elements of the joint efforts in the promotion of international peace and security. In this regard, we reiterate that the respect to the basic principles of peacekeeping; namely, consent of the parties, impartiality, and non-use of force except in self-defence and defense of the mandate, is essential for the success of peacekeeping operations. We express serious concern over the significant increase of attacks targeting peacekeepers, take note of the efforts of the Secretary-General in this regard and call for a common approach between the Secretariat, T/PCC's and other relevant stakeholders for a long-term strategy to that end.

28. We take note of the ongoing review of the UN Peace and Security Architecture aimed at enhancing the effectiveness and coherence of UN actions in the fields of peace and security, including Peacekeeping Operations and Special Political Missions. The review should allow more involvement of T/PCCs on matters related to peacekeeping.

29. We reiterate that we will work towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, leaving no one behind, remembering that the

Agenda is based on people and is universal and transformative. Likewise, we acknowledge the need to fulfill the Agenda's 17 Sustainable Development Goals and its 169 targets for all nations and peoples, and for all sectors of society, in an integrated and indivisible manner, bearing in mind the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. Likewise, we reiterate that ending poverty and hunger in all its forms and dimensions is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development and, in this sense, we reaffirm all the principles recognized in the Agenda, particularly the principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities. We further underline the importance of developed countries fulfilling their commitments regarding the provision of finance, transfer of appropriate technology and capacity building to developing countries, in order to ensure the global realization of Sustainable Development Goals.

30. We express serious concern over the adverse impacts of the global financial and economic crisis on global trade through, inter alia, rising protectionism, in particular, in developed countries which negatively affects exports of developing countries. We also reaffirm the central importance of the development dimensions in trade negotiations and maintain that a successful conclusion of the Doha Development Round, launched in 2001, can only be achieved if the outcomes thereof significantly address the imbalances and inequities in the multilateral trading system, in which the interests of developing countries could be reflected, as well as the need to fulfill of previous commitments.

31. We reaffirm that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of their times and express profound alarm that emissions of greenhouse gases continue to raise globally. We express concern about the increased adverse impacts of climate change, particularly on developing countries, which are severely undermining their efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development. In this regard, we reiterate the concerns and particularities of all developing countries, based on the provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), particularly in relation to the implementation of the principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities, and in light of the historic responsibilities of developed countries. Hence, we urge the developed countries to fulfil their commitments of providing finance, transfer of appropriate technology and capacity building to developing countries.

32. We welcome the hosting of the Founding Conference of the International Solar Alliance in New Delhi on 11 March 2018. The International Solar Alliance is a tangible contribution to the ongoing collective efforts by the international community towards Climate Action and facilitate universal access to affordable and sustainable energy for all.

33. We welcome the nomination of Baku, the capital city of the Republic of Azerbaijan, for hosting the World Expo 2025, with its major theme — "Developing Human Capital: Building a Better Future: and three sub-themes ("Talent — The future of Education", "Vitality — The future of health", and "Achievement — The future of work"), laying emphasis on the human factor and aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations agreed by the world leaders in 2015, and wish every success to Azerbaijan in its campaign for the World Expo 2025 in Baku as the only member of NAM.

34. We reiterate that South-South Cooperation is an important element of international cooperation for the sustainable development of their peoples, as a complement and not as a substitute to the North-South Cooperation, which allows for the transfer of appropriate technologies, in favourable conditions and preferential terms. In this regard, we reaffirm that South-South Cooperation is an expression of solidarity and cooperation among the peoples and countries of the South, which

contributes to their national wellbeing, guided by the principles of respect for sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in the internal affairs, and mutual benefit.

35. We acknowledge the importance of acceleration and enhancement of national development by strengthening and expanding South-South Cooperation in the context of international development cooperation, including through the use of the Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation (NAM CSSTC) established in 1995 at the initiative of the Government of Indonesia and the Government of Brunei Darussalam at the eleventh Summit of NAM held in Cartagena, Colombia.

36. We recognize that the response of the international community to pandemics that constitute a threat to public health and to various natural disasters is an example to follow in terms of solidarity and international cooperation. In this sense, we highlight the efforts of the international community to counter and eradicate the spread of various pandemics, among them the Ebola, as well as for confronting the aftermath of natural disasters around the world.

37. We welcome the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, adopted in September 2016, by virtue of which the UN General Assembly decided to develop an intergovernmental process towards a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, which started in April 2017.

38. We take note with appreciation of the results of the meetings held during the consultation and stocktaking phases, on 2017 and welcome the offer of the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco to host the Intergovernmental Conference to adopt a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration on 10–11 December 2018. We underline in this regard the importance of constructive engagement in intergovernmental negotiations that will lead to the adoption of global compact for safe orderly and regular migration and encourage all States to participate at the highest possible level in this Conference.

39. We acknowledge the historical contribution of international migration to nations from an economic, political, social and cultural perspective and, in this regard, reaffirm the responsibility of Governments, at all levels, to safeguard and protect the rights of migrants in accordance with international and domestic laws, including applying and, where needed, reinforcing existing laws against all illegal or violent acts; in particular acts of and incitement to ethnic, racial, sexual and religious discrimination, as well as crimes perpetrated with racist or xenophobic motivation by individuals or groups against migrants, especially in the context of the global economic crisis that increases the vulnerability of migrants in host countries.

40. We recognize the importance of interreligious and intercultural dialogue and its valuable contribution to promoting social cohesion, peace and development, and consider, as appropriate and where applicable, interreligious and intercultural dialogue as an important tool in efforts aimed at achieving peace and social stability and the full realization of internationally agreed development goals.

41. We condemn any advocacy of religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, whether it involves the use of print, audiovisual or electronic media or any other means. We encourage efforts by the media to promote interreligious and intercultural dialogue and further promotion of dialogue among the media from all cultures and civilizations.

42. We value the input of the "Baku Process" initiated by the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2008 to establish an effective and efficient dialogue between civilizations, as a key global platform for promoting intercultural dialogue.

43. We stress the importance of promoting respect for religious, social and cultural diversity, in order to promote a culture of peace, tolerance and respect between societies and nations, through intercultural, interreligious and inter-civilizations dialogue. We recognize the importance of interreligious and intercultural dialogue and the valuable contribution we can make to an improved awareness and understanding of the common values shared by all humankind, as well as to the promotion of economic and social development, peace and security.

44. We commend the leading role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as well as the work of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, in promoting intercultural dialogue, and welcome the declarations adopted by the Global Forums of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations.

45. We emphasize the need for information and communication strategies to be deeply rooted in historical and cultural processes and call on the media of developed countries to respect developing countries in the formulation of their opinions, models and perspectives with a view to enhancing the dialogue among civilizations. We also reiterate our deep concern on the use of media as a tool for hostile propaganda against developing countries aimed at undermining their governments and stress the need to promote alternative, free, pluralistic and responsible media and communication sources that reflect the realities and interests of the peoples of the developing world.

46. We reaffirm our commitment to take all necessary measures to prevent the use of new platforms, including the internet, digital social networking and mass media, in spreading extremist religious thoughts and ideas, which eventually undermine the culture of peace and religious diversity.

Annex II to the letter dated 17 May 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Political Declaration of the Ministerial Committee of the Non-Aligned Movement on Palestine

1. The Ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Committee on Palestine met on 05 April 2018 in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan on the margins of the Mid-Term Ministerial Conference of the Movement, taking into account the urgent need to address recent worrying developments in the international arena and on the ground, undermining the inalienable rights and legitimate national aspirations of the Palestinian people and the prospects for the realization of a peaceful and just solution for the question of Palestine.

2. At the outset, the Ministers *declared* their firm commitment to the principles and positions regarding the question of Palestine adopted in previous Declarations by the Committee, including the Ministerial Declaration adopted on 22 February 2018 in regards to the provocative decision by the Government of the United States of America, on 6 December 2017, regarding Jerusalem, in contravention of international law and relevant United Nations resolutions. They also recalled the positions affirmed by past Ministerial Meetings and Summits of the Movement regarding the question of Palestine, and *reaffirmed* their abiding solidarity with the Palestinian People and unwavering support for their just cause.

3. The Ministers *stressed* that a just, lasting solution to the question of Palestine in all its aspects must remain a priority on the Movement's agenda. Hence, the Ministers *appealed* to the Members of the Movement to renew their commitment and further strengthen and coordinate their efforts to promote the realization of justice and the inalienable rights of the Palestinian People, including to self-determination and independence.

4. The Ministers *expressed deep regret* at the passage of more than fifty years since the onset of Israel's foreign occupation of Palestinian and other Arab lands in 1967, and *reflected* on the passage of other solemn anniversaries, including the seventieth anniversary of the General Assembly's decision to partition Mandate Palestine by its resolution 181 (II) of 29 November 1947 and the ensuing *Nakba* in 1948, which tragically continues to be endured by the Palestinian People to this day.

5. The Ministers *stressed* the need for urgent collective efforts to advance a just and peaceful solution to the question of Palestine on the basis of the relevant UN resolutions; to bring a halt to the grave violations of international law being perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem; and to alleviate the hardships being endured by the Palestinian People in the absence of a just solution. They *expressed grave concern* that the lack of accountability for violations has further emboldened Israel's impunity, destabilized the situation on the ground, and diminished peace prospects, and *deplored* any support to or cooperation with Israel's illegal actions and impunity.

6. The Ministers *reaffirmed* their readiness to contribute to the achievement of a just and peaceful solution, and called for the intensification of international and regional efforts for this objective, as called for by Security Council resolution 2334 (2016). They *recalled* in particular the responsibilities of the Security Council and the General Assembly, in accordance with the Charter and relevant resolutions.

7. The Ministers *called* for the urgent provision of political, economic and humanitarian support to assist the Palestinian People and support their efforts to

realize their inalienable rights, including to self-determination and freedom in their independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, on the basis of the pre-1967 borders and a just solution for the Palestine refugees, based on General Assembly resolution 194 (III), and to achieve genuine peace, security and coexistence.

8. The Ministers *received* a comprehensive briefing from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Palestine regarding recent serious developments and efforts to salvage the prospects for peace. They *reaffirmed* their grave concerns regarding the current situation and *stressed the need* for urgent action to mobilize the international community, including the Security Council, in accordance with its Charter duties, to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to cease completely all illegal settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem; all acts of violence, provocation and incitement, including at Al-Haram Al-Sharif; its blockade of the Gaza Strip; its arrest of Palestinians and abuse of Palestinian prisoners; all measures of collective punishment against the Palestinian civilian population; and all other illegal practices and human rights violations.

9. The Ministers *expressed deep concern* about the impact of the continued absence of a credible political horizon for justly resolving the conflict and realizing the rights of the Palestinian People. They *deeply deplored* Israel's continuing intransigence and obstruction of peace efforts and entrenchment of its fifty-year military occupation via various illegal schemes and measures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem — the territory that constitutes the State of Palestine, and *expressed grave concern* about the consequent human rights crisis and protection crisis being deliberately inflicted on the Palestinian People, and the deepening insecurity and humanitarian and socio-economic suffering they are enduring.

10. The Ministers *reaffirmed the resolve* of the NAM Ministerial Committee on Palestine, with the support of the Movement as a whole, to continue assisting the Palestinian People in their legitimate struggle for justice, dignity, peace and the exercise of their inalienable rights, including to self-determination and freedom in their independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and a just solution for the plight of the Palestine refugees based on resolution 194 (III).

11. The Ministers *called for increased efforts* to bring about international efforts, in a collective process, aimed at achieving, without delay, an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East, on the basis of relevant UN resolutions, the Madrid terms of reference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet Roadmap, stressing that a peaceful solution to the question of Palestine is central for establishing peace and stability in the Middle East and globally.

12. The Ministers *called for urgent efforts* by States, individually and collectively, by all political, diplomatic and legal means, to hold Israel, the occupying Power, accountable for its violations. They *stressed* the need for consequences for Israel's ongoing violations and blatant contempt of the Security Council and General Assembly and the relevant resolutions. The Member States of the Committee that are Party to the Rome Statute also *affirmed* the importance of the International Criminal Court (ICC) for addressing the war crimes and crimes against humanity being committed by Israel against the Palestinian people, and *emphasized* the centrality of justice in bringing an end to such crimes and impunity.

13. The Ministers *reiterated* their call on all countries that have not recognized the State of Palestine to do so forthwith as an expression of their sincere commitment to peace based on the two-State solution and their respect for international law and legality. They stressed the importance of such actions in the current period as a

contribution to preserving the two-State solution on the pre-1967 borders and salvaging peace prospects.

14. The Ministers *called* on countries who have recognized the State of Palestine to publicly reaffirm that East Jerusalem is the capital of the State of Palestine. The Ministers also *called* on States to explicitly clarify that their recognition of diplomatic relations with Israel are also on the basis of the pre-1967 borders, and that no Israeli sovereignty is recognized over the 1967 line (1949 Armistice Line), including in East Jerusalem. They *stressed* that this too would be in line with their obligations under resolution 2334 (2016), specifically operative paragraphs 3 and 5 regarding non-recognition of any changes to the 1967 lines, including with regard to Jerusalem, and *calling on* all States to make this distinction in their dealings with Israel, the occupying Power.

15. The Ministers *decided* to support the initiatives of the State of Palestine at the UN and to coordinate positions to foster and mobilize the support of Member States. They *stressed* in this regard the importance of the unity and support of the Member States of the NAM Caucus in the Security Council. They welcomed the peace proposal presented by H.E. President Mahmoud Abbas to the Security Council on 20 February 2018, and supported his call for an international peace conference based on the longstanding parameters and terms of reference of the peace process in accordance with the relevant resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative, and called for active efforts and coordination to advance this initiative.

16. The Ministers *reiterated* the urgency of providing support to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), following the decision of the Government of the United States of America to drastically reduce funding to the Agency, undermining its provision of vital humanitarian and development assistance to the Palestine refugees. They called on all States to continue to support the works of the Agency to ensure the continuity of its assistance, in line with the relevant General Assembly resolutions, with a view for it to meet rising refugee needs, and to prevent the decline of humanitarian conditions and further destabilization among the Palestine refugee population throughout the region. They *welcomed* the participation of several NAM Member States in the Extraordinary Ministerial Conference in support of UNRWA, held on 15 March 2018 in Rome, and *urged* continued follow-up and support for these efforts, as well as all efforts aimed at providing the Palestinian people with the necessary humanitarian, socio-economic and development assistance to alleviate the dire humanitarian situation that they continue to endure under the Israeli occupation, particularly in the Gaza Strip, and strengthen their national capacity.

17. The Ministers *called for* the redoubling of international efforts, at the governmental, inter-governmental and non-governmental levels, to realize these noble objectives as rapidly as possible, stressing that a peaceful solution to the question of Palestine is central for establishing peace and stability in the Middle East. They called for the follow-up and implementation of all proposed measures adopted in past Ministerial Declarations, Ministerial Meetings and Summits of the Movement regarding the question of Palestine, with a view to countering the recent negative and dangerous developments, enhancing solidarity with the Palestinian people and their leadership at this critical time, and salvaging the prospects for a just and peaceful solution.

18. The Ministers *pledged* to remain in constant contact and coordination, in order to uphold the principles and positions declared herein in support of a just, lasting, comprehensive and peaceful solution to the question of Palestine, and its attainment without delay, and in solidarity with the Palestinian People at this critical moment.

Baku, 5 April 2018

Annex III to the letter dated 17 May 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Special Declaration of the 18th Midterm Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement on the Commemoration of the Centenary of the Birth of Nelson Mandela

1. The Ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), meeting during the 18th Mid-Term Ministerial Meeting, held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, from 5–6 April 2018, noted that 2018 marks the Centenary of the birth of the former President of the Republic of South Africa, Nelson Mandela.

2. The Ministers recalled that Nelson Mandela fought for the liberation of the Republic of South Africa and dedicated his entire life for the freedom and emancipation of the oppressed majority of its population. As the leader of the African National Congress he was inspired by the principles, values and objectives of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

3. The Ministers reaffirmed that the lessons of Nelson Mandela's life resonate with the core principles of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), which are the principles of mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's affairs, equality and mutual benefit, peaceful coexistence and settlement of international disputes by peaceful means.

4. The Ministers recalled with a profound sense of pride the central role the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) played in the struggle against colonialism, racial discrimination and Apartheid, particularly in South Africa.

5. The release of President Mandela from prison in 1990 after spending 27 years was in no small measure a major breakthrough for our Movement. The liberation of South Africa under the leadership of President Mandela marked a major turning point in the life of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). During his time in office as head of state, President Mandela faithfully committed himself to the Principles and values of the Movement.

6. The Ministers recalled with profound admiration the leadership played by Nelson Mandela in leading the Movement following the 12th Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), held in Durban, South Africa, in 1998. They recalled his acknowledgement of the "critical role of the Movement and its members in the liberation of all the people of [South Africa] from the system of apartheid". The Ministers drew inspiration from his words in which he challenged the Movement to be "informed by the obstacles and opportunities that arise from the realities of the world and driven by the cries of the orphans of an alterable fate, let us dare to take up the challenge of creating our world anew".

7. The Ministers reaffirmed their support for the Mandela International Day as declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 2009 and committed to use the day to honor his legacy of selfless service to humanity.

8. The Ministers further reaffirmed their commitment to draw inspiration from the life and legacy of President Mandela in pursuing the objectives and aims of the movement, particularly for freedom, justice and equality. They commended the Government of South Africa, members of African Union (AU) and members of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) for keeping the legacy of President Mandela alive. They encouraged all the members of the international community to utilize President Mandela centenary year of birth to intensify their efforts aimed at addressing

challenges of poverty, underdevelopment and promoting the peaceful resolution of conflicts.

9. The Ministers further welcomed with appreciation the decision of the United Nations General Assembly to convene a Peace Summit in honor of the Centenary of Nelson Mandela on 24 September 2018 in New York. In this regard, the Ministers encouraged Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) to participate actively in the preparatory process of the Peace Summit, including in the negotiation of the Political Declaration that will be adopted as an outcome of the Summit, and to be represented at the Summit itself at the highest possible level.

Baku, 6 April 2018